

IN THE CLAIMS

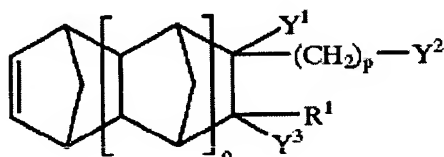
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An olefin thermoplastic elastomer sheet composed of an elastomer material comprising an olefin random copolymer formed by copolymerizing ethylene, an α -olefin having 3 to 10 carbon atoms and an unsaturated monomer having a functional group, and optionally a non-conjugated diene, and metal ions crosslinking the olefin random copolymer,

wherein the said unsaturated monomer having a functional group is a functional cyclic compound represented by the following general formula (1):

General formula (1)



wherein R¹ means represents a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, Y¹, Y² and Y³ denote, independently of one another, a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or --COOH, with the proviso that at least one of Y¹, Y² and Y³ is --COOH, and when at least two of Y¹, Y² and Y³ are --COOH, they may be bonded to each other to form an acid anhydride (--CO--(O)--CO--), o is an integer of 0 to 2, and p is an integer of 0 to 5.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The olefin thermoplastic elastomer sheet according to claim 2, wherein the elastomer material further comprises a polymeric compound selected

from the group consisting of a thermoplastic resin, a thermoplastic elastomer ~~and~~ rubber ~~and/or~~ and a rubber softening agent.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The olefin thermoplastic elastomer sheet according to claim 2 ~~or~~ 3, which has a thickness of 10 μ m to 2 cm.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A process for producing an olefinic thermoplastic, which comprises forming or molding the elastomer material according to claim 2 ~~or~~ 3 by extrusion, ~~calendering~~ calendering, solvent casting, injection molding, vacuum forming, powder slush molding or hot pressing.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A laminate comprising a surface layer composed of the olefinic thermoplastic elastomer sheet according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The laminate according to claim 6, wherein a lower lamination is composed of a material selected from the group consisting of rubbers, plastics, thermoplastic elastomers, glass, metals, fabrics and wood.

Claim 8 (New): The olefin thermoplastic elastomer sheet according to claim 2, which has a thickness of 20 μ m to 1 cm.

Claim 9 (New): The olefin thermoplastic elastomer sheet according to claim 2, wherein the functional group in the unsaturated monomer having a functional group is a carboxyl group, hydroxyl group, epoxy group or sulfonic group.

Claim 10 (New): The olefin thermoplastic elastomer sheet according to claim 2, wherein the metal ions are ions of a metal selected from the group consisting of potassium, sodium, aluminum, magnesium, barium, zinc, iron, calcium, titanium and lead.

Claim 11 (New): The olefin thermoplastic elastomer sheet according to claim 2, wherein the copolymer has a glass transition temperature of -90°C to 50°C.

Claim 12 (New): The olefin thermoplastic elastomer sheet according to claim 2, wherein the copolymer has a glass transition temperature of -70°C to 10°C.

Claim 13 (New): The olefin thermoplastic elastomer sheet according to claim 2, wherein the elastomer material has a melt flow rate of at least 0.5 g/10 min as measured under conditions of a temperature of 230°C and a load of 10 kg, a permanent set of at most 30% and a durometer A hardness of at most 96.

Claim 14 (New): The olefin thermoplastic elastomer sheet according to claim 2, wherein the elastomer material has a melt flow rate of at least 1 g/10 min as measured under conditions of a temperature of 230°C and a load of 10 kg, a permanent set of at most 25% and a durometer A hardness of at most 90.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 was previously canceled.

Claims 2-6 are currently amended.

Claims 8-14 are added.

Claims 2-6 have been amended for minor editorial purposes, to recite proper Markush language, and to remove multiple dependencies.

Support for claims 8-14 can be found in the specification at page 8, lines 15-18, page 12, lines 8-10 and lines 24-26, and page 23, line 24 to page 25, line 3, as originally filed.

The Abstract has been amended for minor editorial purposes.

No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Upon entry of the amendments, claims 2-14 will be pending in the present application.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Teskin for indicating in the present Office Action that claims 2-7 are "free of the prior art" of record, and that claim 5 is allowable. Applicants submit that added claims 8-14 are also novel and unobvious, since these claims depend from claim 2 and their limitations are not described or suggested by the prior art of record. Moreover, Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable in view of remarks below.

The rejection of claim 3 as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is obviated by amendment, as shown above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The objection to claim 5 is obviated by amendment, as shown above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

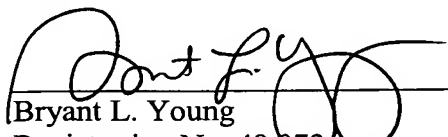
The rejection of claims 2-7 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,426 is obviated by the Terminal Disclaimer submitted herewith. Acknowledgement of the same and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon


Bryant L. Young
Registration No. 49,873

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)